THE

TRIAL,

Conviction, Condemnation, Confeſſion and Execution

OF

WILLIAM SMITH,

For Poiſoning his Father-in-law,

Thomas Harper, and *William* and *Anne Harper* his Children,

At *Ingleby-Manor*, in *Yorkſhire*, by mixing Arſenick in a *Good-Friday* Cake, who was tried on *Monday* the 13th of *Auguſt*, at the Aſſizes held at the *Caſtle* at *York*,

BEFORE

MR. SERJEANT *EYRE*,

And Executed on *Wedneſday* the 15th, and afterwards diſſected by the Surgeons of that Place.

To which is added,

An Account of the Murder of Farmer *Harvey*, his Wife, Son and Daughter in the Pariſh of *Brent*, within Sixteen Miles of *Plymouth*, who were found murdered on *Friday* the 10th of this Month.

LONDON:

Printed for M. COOPER, *Pater-noſter-row*, W. REEVE, *Fleet-ſtreet*; and C. SYMPSON, at the *Bible-warehouſe*, *Chancery-lane*. MDCCLIII.

(Price Six-pence.)

JUN 6 1911

THE

TRIAL

OF

WILLIAM SMITH.

BEFORE Mr. Serjeant EYRE, and other his Majesty's Justices of the Peace at the Assizes for the County of *York*, holden in the Castle at *York*, on *Monday* the thirteenth Day of *August*, 1753.

Clerk. Officer; make Proclamation.

Officer. O Yes! O Yes!

Clerk. Bring the Prisoner to the Bar. Hold up your Hand.

William Smith, otherwise *William Smith*, of *Great Broughton*, in this County, Farmer, you stand indicted for that You not having the Fear of God before your Eyes, and in Breach of the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, and in open Defiance of the Laws of this Realm, and contrary to the Statutes in that Behalf made and provided, did wilfully, wittingly and knowingly procure and cause the Death of *Thomas Harper*, Farmer, of *Ingleby Manor*, in the County aforesaid, by putting an Ingredient called Arsenic or White Arsenic, into a Tub of Flour, of which a certain Cake was made for his Dinner;

and of which he did eat, and ſoon after died, on *Friday* the twentieth of *April*.

You ſtand a ſecond Time indicted by the Name of *William Smith*, of the Place and County aforeſaid, for the ſame Offence and Murther, in procuring by the ſame Means the Death of *William Harper*, of the ſaid Pariſh of *Ingleby Manor*, Son of the aforeſaid *Thomas Harper*, who on the ſaid twentieth Day of the ſaid Month of *April*, being *Good-Friday*, did eat of a certain Cake, in which you the Priſoner at the Bar had put a Quantity of White Arſenick.

You ſtand a third Time indicted, by the Name of *William Smith*, of the Place and County aforeſaid, for the Murder of *Anne Harper*, the Daughter of the ſaid *Thomas Harper*, by procuring her Death, by putting or mixing with ſome Flour a certain Quantity of Arſenick of which a Cake was made, and of which the ſaid *Anne* did eat, and whereof ſhe lingered and died.

How ſay you, *William Smith?* Are you guilty of the ſeveral Indictments laid to your Charge, or not guilty?

Priſoner. Not Guilty, my Lord.

Clerk. How will you be tried?

Priſoner. By GOD and my Country.

Clerk. God ſend you a good Deliverance.

Court. Sware the Jury.

Clerk. *You ſhall well and truly try the Matter in Queſtion between Our Sovereign Lord the King and the Priſoner at the Bar, and true Deliverance make according to Evidence.*

So help you GOD.

Officer. Sworn.

JURY.

JURY.

Daniel Smith, Foreman.	*William Hartley.*
Thomas Thorold.	*Richard Strong.*
James Stewart.	*Iſaac Murden.*
Henry Goodman.	*Thomas Addington.*
John Stapletroft.	*George Worgan.*
Robert Harland.	*Stephen Griffin.*

My Lord, and You Gentlemen of the Jury; I am Council in this Caſe for the King, in whoſe Name and at whoſe Expence, this Proſecution is carried on againſt the Priſoner at the Bar, in Order to bring him to Juſtice; for a Crime of the blackeſt Dye, and of the moſt atrocious Nature.

For, Gentlemen, the Priſoner *William Smith*, who is now ſcarce twenty-two Years of Age, is by Profeſſion a Farmer, and did live at *Great Broughton*, in this County, and it ſeems married a Daughter of the Deceaſed *Thomas Harper*, of *Ingleby Manor*, with the Conſent of the ſaid *Thomas*; by which as is natural, a Friendſhip grew between him and his Father-in-law; I think he had been married to his Daughter *Elizabeth* nigh eighteen Months before this unhappy Affair happened; during which Time they all lived together in perfect Harmony and Friendſhip; but on the twentieth Day of *April* laſt, he, the Priſoner at the Bar, *William Smith*, of *Great Broughton* aforeſaid, being inſtigated thereto, and poſſeſſed by (I think I may ſafely ſay) the Devil, contrived one of the moſt wicked, atrocious, abominable and diabolical Schemes, that Hell and Demons could invent to deprive of Life, his Father-in-law, *Thomas Harper*, his Brother-in-law, *William Harper*, Son of the ſaid *Thomas*; and *Anne Harper*, Daughter of the ſaid *Thomas*, by buying, procuring, and putting into ſome Flour, a certain Quantity of White Arſenick, which he knew that Day, being *Good-Friday*, was to

be

be made into a large Cake according to annual Cuſtom, to the eating of which I underſtand it is cuſtomary for the better Sort of Farmers in that Part of the County to invite certain of their Neighbours, Friends and Acquaintance. It ſeems, Gentlemen, *Thomas Harper*, the Farmer, was a Hoſpitable Man, and was noted for the keeping up the good old ſocial Cuſtoms, and had invited ſix of his Neighbours to eat of his *Good-Friday* Cake, but providentially five of them did not come; but ſee what might have been the Conſequences of this wicked and inhuman Act, for as many as eat of the Cake died; for it appears upon the Coroner's Inqueſt, that *Thomas Harper*, who eat of this Cake at Noon, died at Six the ſame Afternoon, *Anne Harper*, the Daughter of the ſaid *Thomas*, died at Nine that Night, and *William Harper*, the Son of the ſaid *Thomas*, died at Six o'Clock the next Morning. So that it is very likely, had the Neighbours, who were invited, and who were five, happened to come, and to have eat of this poiſoned Cake, it is, I think, out of Diſpute but they alſo would have died by the Means thereof. However, it ſeems, that an honeſt Butcher came to this Feaſt according to Invitation, and taſting ſomething in this Cake which he did not like, was ſo wiſe, or ſo lucky, as to keep to his beloved Diſh, the Roaſt Beef, which is a Diſh, I am informed, thoſe of his Profeſſion much admire; I am ſure of this, it at this Time ſaved his Life, for which he ought to be thankful to Almighty God. *Elizabeth Wall* the Maid-ſervant had alſo a much narrower Eſcape for her Life, ſhe indeed eat but a very little of this poiſoned Cake, found great Fault with the Taſte of it; yet ſhe lay ill above a Fortnight, but by proper Care was recovered.

Gentlemen, it makes my Blood ſhudder within me to think, much more to relate to you this ſhocking Scene of Barbarity, committed by a Perſon who not only by the Laws of Humanity, but alſo by the

Ties

Ties of Friendſhip and Conſanguinity was obliged to ſupport and defend the Lives of the Parties he has violated. Who can be ſafe, if Sons, if Children, if Relations and Friends cannot be truſted about one's Perſon? I need not go on to ſay any thing more on this Subject, every Breaſt already heaves with Deteſtation and Abhorrence of the foul Crime, and of the wicked Perpetrator. But I am very ſorry to find, that notwithſtanding the wiſe Proviſion lately made by the Legiſlature to prevent and deter Perſons from Murthers, Parricides, *&c.* they are ſince much increaſed in this Kingdom; however it is to be hoped, that the late ſalutary Law will by a due and ſteady Execution thereof, in a ſhort Time put an End to ſuch inhuman and barbarous Practices. The Law of Nature and Nations has pointed out the Puniſhment due to this Crime, and the Law of GOD has juſtly denounced that, *By whom Man's Blood is ſhed, by Man ſhall his Blood be ſhed.*

We will call the Witneſſes on Behalf of the Crown, when I am certain, ſo much will come out, that will induce you to believe, that the Priſoner at the Bar is the Perſon who has been guilty of the ſeveral Murders laid in the three Indictments, though he was not ſo much as ſuſpected by the Coroner and his Inqueſt, when they ſat on the Bodies of the Deceaſed, and which therefore for want of the Knowledge of the Offender they were obliged to bring in their Verdict, *Wilful Murder by Perſons unknown.*

My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury, I am alſo of Council for the Crown, and after what has been ſaid, ſhall take up but little of your Time, juſt to make an Obſervation or two, which may be neceſſary in a Caſe of this Nature; becauſe this is an Act perpetrated by a Perſon without Accomplices, done in Secret; a Thing premeditated by one Perſon, and executed without the Privity of a ſecond; and therefore in this Caſe, the Fact muſt be proved, either by

the

the Confeſſion of the Party guilty; or by certain Circumſtances which in the Eye of the Law amount to a ſtrong Preſumption of Guilt, and even to a Demonſtration of ſuch an one being Guilty. Of this circumſtantial Evidence you Gentlemen are the proper Judges; and therefore, in order to ſhew, that *William Smith*, the Priſoner at the Bar was guilty of the ſeveral Murders laid in the Indictments we ſhall prove, that he abſconded on *Sunday*, the twenty-ſecond Day of *April* following, being *Eaſter*-Day, which was on the Morrow after the Coroner had ſat on the Bodies of the three Deceaſed, and brought in his Verdict; and that it was the Opinion of certain Apothecaries, and Surgeons, who had viewed the Bodies that they were murdered by being poiſoned. We ſhall likewiſe ſhew, that ſix Weeks before this Accident happened, he, the Priſoner, had attempted to murder the Parties, by putting Arſenick into ſome Oatmeal uſed for thickening of ſome Broth or Gruel, of which he knew the Deceaſed were to eat. And laſtly, we ſhall prove, that he, the Priſoner, confeſſed the Fact he ſtands charged with; which when we have done to your Satisfaction, we doubt not but you will find the Priſoner Guilty.

Thomas Trueman ſworn.

Counſel for the King. Mr. *Trueman*, give the Court and Jury an Account of what you know of this Affair as far as you are able, for I think, you was at Farmer *Harper*'s at *Ingleby Manor*, on laſt *Good-Friday*, and did eat, or was going to eat, of this fatal Cake, which the Priſoner at the Bar had poiſoned with Arſenick.

Trueman. My Lord, I am a Butcher, and I have had Dealings with Mr. *Harper* for many a Day; and he was a very honeſt Man, and ſold good fat Sheep, as good as any Man in the County; and he invited me to Dinner upon a *Good-Friday* Cake, as we call it; for he was a right good neighbourly Man;

and

and he invited five other Neighbours (for he loved friendly and good Company) to eat of this Cake; but it ſo happened neither of them came, which God be thanked for, for they are my very good Neighbours and Cuſtomers. Now you my worthy Lord muſt know, we have a Notion, (which ſome Gentlemen who be here, and come from that polite Town of *London* call a Superſtition) in our Country, That if we do eat of a Cake made purpoſely to be eat of *Good-Friday*, we ſhall never want Money nor Victuals all the Year round, which for as many Years as I can remember has always fallen out true; and all my Neighbours know that though I do love a Jug of good Ale, I always mind my Buſineſs early and late. But this Cake had ſuch an odd Taſte that I ſpit, and thought I ſhould have choaked myſelf; whilſt I was in this Agitation my good Lord, for I am ſomewhat purſy, *Elizabeth Wall*, the Maid, brought in the Roaſt Beef; I put the Mouthful I had taken of the Cake out, and made my Dinner, GOD be thanked for all his Mercies, on the Beef.

Council. And ſo you eſcaped, and I think you ought ever after to thank GOD, and ſing, *O the Roaſt Beef of Old England!* But Mr. *Trueman* was the Priſoner at the Bar with you? Did he eat of the Cake?

Trueman. He took a Mouthful, but I remember now he ſpit it out, and made his Dinner of the Roaſt Beef, ſaying, that he liked Beef better than Cake; but I did not know his Reaſon for it then. I did not ſuſpect that the Priſoner had poiſoned the three Deceaſed till after the Coroner's Inqueſt had ſat upon the Bodies, and it became a general Talk, that they were poiſoned. Then the next Day, which was *Sunday*, the Priſoner abſconded, and then we judged, that he had poiſoned the Cake, but in what Manner we could not tell. I talked on *Sunday* Morning with *Elizabeth Wall*, who then was very ill, and who had eat too freely of the Cake, and we concluded, that *William*

Smith had had ſome how put Poiſon into the Flour of which the Cake was made.

Elizabeth Wall. I have lived with my Maſter who is dead, ſix or ſeven Years, and he was a good Farmer and an honeſt Man; he would not hurt a Worm; he loved his Neighbours and his Neighbours loved him; and he would do good to every one; and he always uſed to make a large Cake of a *Good-Friday*, and invite ſeveral to Dinner. The Priſoner at the Bar, he makes me cry to think of him, has eat many an one; and they were main good ones, though I ſay it that did make them; he has praiſed them often; and he, my Maſter, and his Wife, we have been bonnily merry at ſuch Times often. But waſte heart, my Lord, when I came to taſte this Cake, it did not taſte as other Cakes uſed to do; and I could not help ſaying to Maſter, that there was ſomething in it that was not right. My poor Maſter, who is now dead; poor Man; and is now buried in *Ingleby* Churchyard; he poor Soul laughed at me, and ſaid, that I was miſtaken, the Cake he thought was as good as uſual. Poor Heart, he eat heartily of it, and ſo did *Thomas*, my young Maſter, and ſo did our *Nan*. But, my Lord, what ſoon followed, my Maſter found himſelf very ill, went up into his Room, and putting his Hand, I think it was his Right-hand, ſo to his Head, ſaid, my Head aches, and I will go to Bed. He did not ſay what was the Matter with him, nor did I think he was poiſoned. It is true, I was not right well myſelf, but I did not think of the Cake, for I had ſwallowed but one Mouthful, and the ſecond I took out of my Mouth, as GOD in his infinite Mercy would have it, or I ſhould have been dead too, if I had ſwallowed it. My Maſter grew worſe, and was ſtrangely convulſed, which made me ſend *Jack*, our Man, to *Stokeſley*, to fetch Mr. *Pearſon*, the Apothecary to my Maſter, but before he came my Maſter was breathing his laſt; which was about ſix o'Clock in the Afternoon of the ſame *Good-Friday*;

and

and about Nine our *Nan* died, though ſhe was a bonny blithe Laſs, and as good as any may be of her Years; and the next Morning about Six died my yonng Maſter *Thomas*, as clever a Lad as any in the County. GOD reſt their Souls! But never ſaw I ſuch Mortality in all my Life; inſtead of *Good-Friday*, it was black *Friday*; and to ſee the Concern of poor Mr. *Pearſon*; poor Gentleman he was almoſt diſtracted;—they died, and all the Means he could uſe, could not prevent it; he did cry like any Child, poor Man.

Court. Well!—It was a melancholly Scene indeed! but pray, where was the Priſoner all this While?

Elizabeth Wall. He was at *Great Broughton* and pleaſe you my Lord; no one ſuſpected him; and no one ſuſpected me; and we could no Way tell how this Thing happened. I ſent for *William Smith*, by our Man *Jack*, who told him what had happened, this I did about Six o'Clock on *Friday* Evening, but he did not come till the next Morning, pretending he was buſy, when he found all three dead. I told him, I believed they were poiſoned, for ſo Mr. *Pearſon* had ſaid, but at that Time I did not ſuſpect him. He made light of it, ſaying, *God's Will muſt be done.* About Four o'Clock *Saturday* in the Afternoon, I was examined before the Coroner's Inqueſt, and about Eight o'Clock I was taken ill, I was very much frightened, and thought I ſhould die ſoon, but by GOD's Help and good Mr. *Pearſon's* here after a Fortnight's Time I got well, but I think I never ſhall be myſelf again.

Thomas Pearſon. I live at *Stokeſley*, and was ſent for by *Elizabeth Wall*, as ſhe has related. When I came to Mr. *Harper*'s, I found him expiring, greatly convulſed, and paſt Recovery; this was about Six o'Clock on *Friday* the twentieth Day of *April*; finding I could be of no Service to Mr. *Harper*, I was conducted by *Elizabeth Wall* to *Ann Harper*, who was in Bed, ſhe was about Eighteen Years of Age;

but ſhe was extremely bad, and was violently convulſed; I told *Wall* that ſhe was poiſoned, and that it was beyond Art to ſave her Life, and that ſhe could not live many Hours. This being the Caſe, *Wall* conducted me to *William Harper*, who was alſo in Bed; he complained mightily of a Pain in his Head, a Dizzineſs and a Stupor, but was not convulſed; I did all I could to expel the Poiſon, but it had ſo infected the whole Maſs of Blood that it was impoſſible, and I had the Mortification the next Morning when I came, which I did about Ten, to ſee my Friend, and his two Children lie dead. I was examined by the Coroner that Afternoon, when I delivered it as my Oninion, that they were all three poiſoned by putting white Arſenick into ſome Victuals they had eat.

Council. This Cake has been often mentioned; Pray, Sir, did you ſee any Part of it? They did not I preſume eat the whole of it?

Pearſon. Yes! and from its Taſte I found Arſenic had been put into it.

Council. What became of the Remainder of the Cake?

Pearſon. After the Coroner's Inqueſt had ſeen it, I ordered it to be burnt.

Court. Was the Priſoner preſent when you was examined before the Coroner?

Pearſon. I cannot tell.

Court. Do you know the Priſoner?

Pearſon. Yes, my Lord, but he was the laſt Man I ſhould have ſuſpected to have been guilty of what he ſtands charged with.

Court. Put up *Elizabeth Wall* again.

Council. Hear, I think you ſaid, you made this Cake on *Good-Friday*? As *William Smith*, the Priſoner, lives at *Great Broughton* how came he to be at *Ingleby* to put Arſenic into the Flour, as was ſuſpected?

Elizabeth Wall. He was at my Maſter's Houſe at *Ingleby* on the *Thurſday* before, and it is cuſtomary

for

for Neighbours, Relations and Friends in that Part of the County to go into the Pantry, and ſerve themſelves, he went into the Pantry; for I met him coming out, as I was going in; he had his Afternoon's Nuncheon in his Hand, and it was at this Time he muſt mix the Arſenic or Poiſon in my great Flour-Tub; on the Morrow he did not come to Dinner till the Victuals was on the Table. But after the Deaths of the Deceaſed no one ſuſpected honeſt *Will.* as we uſed to call him, till *Eaſter*-Day when he abſconded.

Council. Well! this is all you know of the Matter.

Elizabeth Wall. I could tell a great deal more, but I am afraid my Lord wont hear it; for waſte Heart, I have loſt the fineſt Cat and the beſt Mouſer that ever was, and our *Jack* has loſt *Shock* and *Fly* two Dogs that he doated on, by this Poiſon.

Court. Well, well, good Woman, 'tis a great Loſs. Sware *Henry Hubberon.*

Hubberon. My Lord, after the Priſoner at the Bar had abſconded, which he did early on *Eaſter-Sunday* the twenty-ſecond of *April* we ſoon concluded he was the Perſon who had poiſoned the Cake on *Good-Friday*; and then I and *John Watſon*, and ſome others having obtained of Mr. Juſtice *Scottow* and Mr. Juſtice *Beckwith* Warrants to take up and apprehend Mr. *William Smith* we went ſeveral Ways in order to overtake him; but this was in vain, till on *Friday* the fourth Day of *May*, he was taken by *Samuel Hubberon* and *James Watſon* near his own Father's Door, about two Miles from *Ingleby*; from whence we carried him to *Great Ayton*, where he was examined by Mr. Juſtice *Scottow* and Mr. Juſtice *Beckwith.*

Mr. Juſtice *Scottow.* He was brought before me and Mr. *Beckwith* about Noon on *Friday*, the fourth of *May*, when we endeavoured to ſearch out by Examination this wicked Affair, but the Priſoner denied the Fact, and would by no Means be led to confeſs, that he was any Ways concerned; whereupon

we

we remanded him back to *Ingleby*, and committed him to the Care of *Henry* and *Samuel Hubberon*, and *John* and *James Watſon*, for a farther Examination.

Samuel Hubberon. That ſame Afternoon, being the fourth Day of *May* we carried him to *Ingleby*, where I keep an Inn, and that Evening after Supper, the Priſoner began to confeſs, and then he told us, that he did on *Thurſday* in the Afternoon, the Day preceding the laſt *Good-Friday* put ſome white Arſenic into a Box of Flour which was in the Pantry of his Father-in-Law *Harper*'s, and that he did it with Intent to poiſon his Father-in-law, and as many as eat of the Cake he knew was to be made the next Day. I aſked him, what Reaſon he had for ſo doing, when he only laughed, and ſaid, That ſix Weeks before that he had put Arſenick into a Tub of Oatmeal, but that the Quantity was ſo ſmall, it had not operated according to his Deſign and Intention.

James Watſon. My Lord, the next Morning we carried him before the Juſtices *Scottow* and *Beckwith*, and as he was going he confeſſed the Fact, in much the ſame Manner as he had done the Night before.

Mr. Juſtice *Beckwith.* Here is the Examination which Mr. *Scottow* and I took from the Mouth of *William Smith*, the Priſoner at the Bar, with your Lordſhip's Leave it might be read to the Court and the Jury; it is ſigned by the Priſoner.

Clerk. Reads.

The Examination of William Smith *of* Great Broughton, *Farmer, in the County of* York, *made on* Saturday *the Fifth Day of* May, *in the Year* 1753, *before* John Scottow, *and* Thomas Beckwith, *Eſquires; two of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County, at* Great Ayton.

THIS Examinant ſaith, that he *William Smith*, Farmer of *Great Broughton*, in the County aforeſaid, did about the Year 1748 become acquaint-

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ed with *Thomas Harper*, Farmer of *Ingleby Manor*; that he often went to the Houſe of the ſaid *Harper* and was always friendly entertained and received by him; that in the Year 1750 the Intimacy grew ſo ſtrong, that he obtained Leave of the ſaid *Thomas* to addreſs his Daughter *Elizabeth* for a Wife; which he did, and by his Conſent, married the ſaid *Elizabeth* on the fourteenth Day of *February* in the Year 1752, and by whom he has had one Child; that he wanted his Father-in-law and his Brother-in-law dead, that he might come into the Farm of *Ingleby Manor*, which was much preferable to that he had; that he hoped to have procured their Death without Suſpicion; that ſix Weeks before this Time he had attempted the ſame Thing, but he not having put into ſome Oatmeal a ſufficient Quantity it had not had the deſired Effect; that at this Time he was reſolved to do it effectually; and he hoped he ſaid, that as that did paſs over without Obſervation, ſo he hoped this would; that he had ſo far ſucceeded, and did verily believe no body would have ſuſpected him, if he had not abſconded; but that having the Terrors of Conſcience upon him, which particularly ſeized him, on ſeeing the Coroner and the Jury ſit on the three liveleſs Bodies, he could not be eaſy, nor did not know what to do, nor where to go; that at length he took up a Reſolution to go out of the Kingdom; that hereupon he left *Great Broughton* in the Night after the Coroner's Inqueſt had ſat on the Bodies of the Deceaſed to go to *Ireland*; that in this Reſolution he proceeded as far as *Liverpool*; that then his Mind miſgiving him this Examinant returned; and that he was taken near his own Father's Houſe, who is a Farmer within two Miles of *Ingleby*. *William Smith.*

Council for the Crown. We will reſt the Matter here, being unwilling to give the Court and Jury any farther Trouble in a Caſe ſo plain.

Court.

Court. Priſoner you have heard what has been depoſed againſt you by the ſeveral Witneſſes called on Behalf of the Crown, wherefore now is your Time, if you have any Thing to offer in your Defence.

Priſoner's Defence.

My Lord, I am not guilty, nor did I at any Time put White Arſenic, or any other Poiſon into either Oatmeal or Flour belonging to the Deceaſed *Thomas Harper*. No body can ſay I did; no one ſaw me do it, nor can any body ſay, that ever I had ſuch poiſonous Things in my Poſſeſſion. I always loved my Father-in-law, and all his Family, and we always lived together in Friendſhip. And that I am a Man of a fair Character, and above being guilty of ſuch an Act, which is laid to my Charge, give me Leave to call ſome of my Neighbours to my Reputation; for though my Father-in law, Brother and Siſter-in-law were poiſoned, according to the Witneſſes, and by Poiſon as laid in the Indictment; yet it does not follow, that I did poiſon the Cake, or the Flour of which the Cake was made; and I hope my Life is not to be taken away upon mere Suſpicion.

Court. As for calling Perſons to your Character that will be of no Service to you; unleſs you could prove yourſelf in another Place, and that you was not at *Ingleby* on the *Thurſday* before this Cataſtrophe; for *Elizabeth Wall* ſwears, that you were there, at Farmer *Harper*'s, and that you did go into the Pantry.

Priſoner. I acknowledge I was at *Ingleby*, and I did go into the Pantry, but that was to take a Mouthful of Victuals; I am ſure, I had no *Arſenic* or other Poiſon, and therefore I could not put it into the Flour-tub as is ſuſpected of me. Why might it not be done by ſome other Perſon, ſince the Pantry is free to all Comers. Pray Gentlemen, let me

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beg of you not to take away the Life of an innocent Man; I proteſt I am not guilty.

Council. I thought to have given your Lordſhip and the *Court* no farther Trouble in a Caſe ſo plain, but I hope a Circumſtance juſt now come to my Hand will put it beyond Diſpute, that the Priſoner at the Bar is guilty of the Crime laid to his Charge. We ſhall preſently be able to prove, that the Priſoner bought a certain Quantity of Arſenick, and I think too that very Morning before he put it into the Flour-tub. Call Mr. *Alſtone*.

Mr. *Alſtone* Sworn.

Council. Pleaſe to relate to the *Court* and Jury what you know about the Priſoner's buying Arſenick at your Shop.

Mr. *Alſtone.* I am an Apothecary, and keep a ſhop at *Great Ayton:* About Eight o'Clock on *Thurſday* in the Morning, the Priſoner at the Bar, *William Smith*, came in great Haſte on Horſe-back to my Houſe, and ſaid to me, *Theſe Rats, d—n them, I will be revenged on them, they have done me great Damage, let me have an Ounce of your White Arſenick*; —I had no Suſpicion for he had bought of me before;—I let him have it, and ſome Days afterward I heard of this Accident.

Council for the Crown. Thus, my Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury we have proved, that the Priſoner *William Smith* had in his Poſſeſſion a Quantity of Arſenic ſufficient to poiſon a Hundred Men; and this with the Circumſtances already ſet forth, and his Confeſſion of the Fact before the Juſtices who took his Examination are ſufficient I humbly apprehend to induce the Jury to believe the Priſoner guilty.

The CHARGE.

Gentlemen of the Jury. William Smith, the Priſoner at the Bar, ſtands indicted before you for the Murder

of three Perſons, *Thomas Harper*, his Father-in-law, *William Harper* and *Ann Harper*, Children to the ſaid *Thomas Harper*, for poiſoning ſome Flour of which a Cake was made, and after eaten by the ſaid Perſons, by means whereof they all died. To which he pleaded, that he was not guilty.

In order to Support the Indictment, they undertake on the ſide of the Proſecution firſt, to prove, that the Cake was poiſoned, to which End they have called *Thomas Trueman*, a Butcher, who was one of the Perſons invited to come and eat of this Cake, purſuant to a Cuſtom I find they have, in that Part of this County, among the better Sort of Farmers and Houſe-keepers, of making what they call a *Good-Friday* Cake, and of inviting their Neighbours and Acquaintance to come and partake of the Cake; and this Cuſtom is upheld as *Trueman* tells you upon a Notion they have, that whoever eats of ſuch a Cake on that Day will never want neither Money, nor Victuals all the Year round. He ſays, that when he had taken a Piece of the Cake into his Mouth, he did not like it, there was ſomething he thought ſo diſagreeable in the Taſte that he immediately ſpit it out, and would eat no more. This Witneſs, you ſee, afterward was of Opinion that the Cake was poiſoned, but did not ſuſpect the Priſoner till he abſconded on the *Sunday* following. The ſecond Witneſs is *Elizabeth Wall*; ſhe is the Maid ſervant a Woman who it ſeems has been in the Family ſome Years; and ſhe indeed appears very much concerned both for the Loſs of her Maſter, his Daughter, and her young Maſter; and for the Crime of the Priſoner. This Evidence had like to have loſt her Life by eating but one Mouthful of this Cake; and then her Concern is likewiſe expreſſed in the Loſs of her Cat whom ſhe ſays was a good Mouſer; and for the Loſs of the two Dogs by eating of the diſtaſteful Pieces of Cake which had been thrown down by herſelf, *Trueman* and it is likely

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the Priſoner at the Bar; which ſhews, that this Cake was poiſoned to a very great Degree. That the Cake was poiſoned is the firſt thing that was undertaken to be proved; and which I hope is done to your Satisfaction. The ſecond and main Thing for your Conſideration is, whether the Priſoner at the Bar *William Smith* was guilty of poiſoning or putting White Arſenic among the Flour of which this Cake happened to be made. In order to prove this, they have called *Elizabeth Wall* who ſays, that the Priſoner came to her Maſter's Houſe, on *Thurſday* the nineteenth Day of *April*, in the Afternoon, the Day preceding *Good-Friday*, that he went into the Pantry, and that he did cut ſome Victuals; but ſhe does not mention how long the Priſoner was in the Pantry; but this is eaſily accounted for; becauſe ſhe tells you, that it is cuſtomary among the better Sort of Farmers for Friends and Neighbours to go into the Pantry, and cut a Mouthful of Meat or the like, as they pleaſe; a Remain I ſuppoſe of the ancient *Britiſh* Hoſpitality, which has defied the Eroſion of Time: this ſhe calls an Afternoon's Nuncheon; Now this does not amount to a full Proof, nor are the Circumſtances ſufficient to induce you to find *Smith* guilty of poiſoning the Flour; but then you are to obſerve, that he himſelf in his Defence, ſays, that he was in the Pantry; and it is proved by a Gentleman, I think his Name is *Alſtane*, that he bought that Day ſome Arſenic of him at his Houſe at *Great Ayton*, ſo that it is very probable, the Priſoner had the Arſenic in his Pocket when he was at *Ingleby*, and when he went into the Pantry. But as this would not be ſufficient to induce you to find the Priſoner guilty of poiſoning the Cake, they go on to ſhew you that the Parties poiſoned did eat of this Cake, and this appears by the Evidence of *Trueman*, *Elizabeth Wall*, but more particularly by the Teſtimony of Mr. *Thomas Pearſon*, a Gentleman who is an Apothecary at *Stokeſley*; he ſays, that he was ſent for to Mr. *Harper's*

per's on *Friday* the twenty-ſecond of *April*, that when he came, he found Mr. *Harper* gone to Bed, that he was ſtrongly convulſed, that he found he was poiſoned, and that he was paſt Recovery. He finding, that Old *Harper* was not to be ſaved, went to ſee *Ann* his Daughter; whom he aſſiſted all he could, but ſhe maugre all his Endeavours died about Nine o'Clock that Evening; he then went to ſee *Thomas Harper*, who was then in Bed; he ſays, he did all he could to relieve him, but when he came the next Day in the Morning, he found them all dead. But I do not remember at this Time, that he examined *Elizabeth Wall* concerning the Cake; and he not being aſked to that Point, it would be neceſſary now to aſk him, Whether he did at that Time look at, or taſte the Remainder of the Cake?

Pearſon. My Lord, I aſked what the Patients had eat for their Dinner; for as ſoon as I looked on them I perceived they had been poiſoned; *Elizabeth Wall* ſaid, only ſome Cake and Roaſt Beef. Then I deſired her to let me ſee the Cake and the Beef, which ſhe did. I looked at the Cake, but I did not perceive by the Sight that it was poiſoned; I then taſted of it, and found that it had been ſo adulterated with Arſenic that I was convinced that whoever eat of it, muſt die. I aſked *Wall* who made the Cake, and ſhe ſaid, ſhe did. But as I had known the Woman many Years, I did not ſuſpect her. I only ſhook my Head, and ſaid, There had been ſome foul Play. Bid her take care of the Cake, and put it ſomewhere, where no Body could come at it, for fear of an Accident; for ſaid I, it muſt be produced before the Coroner and his Jury.

You have heard Gentlemen what this Evidence has ſaid. And now I think it is fully proved that the Cake was poiſoned. The ſecond Thing for your Conſideration is, whether the Priſoner at the Bar, *William Smith*, was guilty of poiſoning the Flour of which this Cake was made. In order to do this,

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they have called *Elizabeth Wall*, who ſwears, That the Priſoner came to her Maſter's Houſe on *Thurſday* the 19th of *April*, the Day preceeding *Good-Friday*; ſhe ſays, he came in the Afternoon: That he went into the Pantry, and that he did eat ſome Victuals; but that he does not mention how long he was there; but that is eaſily accounted for; for ſhe tells you, that it is cuſtomary among the better Sort of Farmers for Friends and Neighbours to go into the Pantry, and to cut a Mouthful of Meat or the like, as they pleaſe. Now this, Gentlemen, doth not amount to a full Proof that *Smith* poiſoned the Flour, but then you are to obſerve, that he himſelf ſays, that he was in the Pantry; and it is proved by a Gentleman, I think his Name is *Alſtone*, that the Priſoner that very Day bought ſome Arſenic of him at his Houſe at *Great Ayton*, ſo that it is very probable the Priſoner had the Arſenic in his Pocket, when he was at *Ingleby*, and when he was in the Pantry. Here are corroborating Circumſtances which greatly tend to a violent Preſumption, that the Priſoner *William Smith* is guilty; but if you ſhould not think them ſufficient, they next produce you one *Samuel Hubberton*, who I ſuppoſe is a Headborough or Conſtable, and by his Evidence it appears, that *William Smith*, though he would not confeſs before the Juſtices when he was carried to *Great Ayton*, did after Supper when he was in his Houſe at *Ingleby Manor*, confeſs the whole Fact, and which he did the next Day alſo at *Great-Ayton*, before the Juſtices *Scattow* and *Beſkwith*, as has been read to you in his Examination, and particularly, that he did put Arſenic into ſome Flour on the *Thurſday* before *Good-Friday* when he went into the Pantry. Thus the Evidence ſtands on the Side of the Crown.

Now on the Side of the Priſoner; he has offered, that he never had any Arſenic in his Poſſeſſion, and that he could not be ſuppoſed to do ſo wicked an Act; but I think it is fully proved by *Alſtone's* Evidence, that he had before this Time bought Arſenic

of

of him. Indeed, he wanted to call Perſons to his Character, but that could not have had any Weight with you; for *Smith*, though guilty of this deteſtable Crime, might, and I do not doubt is a Man of Reputation and Credit among his Neighbours at *Great Broughton*. If he could have proved that he was not at *Ingleby* on the *Thurſday*, it might have been of Service to him, but this he did not attempt; and if he had, it would have been left to your Conſideration, whether you would have believed the Circumſtances and his Confeſſion, or a Proof which he muſt have been ſuppoſed on Purpoſe to have ſet up.

Thus, Gentlemen, this tragical Story ſtands before you, and upon which it muſt be left to you to form your Judgment, and to give your Verdict.

The Crime with which the Priſoner ſtands charged is of the moſt heinous Nature, and blackeſt Dye, and attended with Conſiderations that ſhock human Nature; the Death of three; of a Father, and two Children, and it was GOD's great Goodneſs, it had not been of five or ſix other Perſons. In all Caſes of Murder, it is of Neceſſity, that there ſhould be Malice afore-thought, which is the Eſſence of, and conſtitutes the Offence. The Malice of the Priſoner is implied, and ariſes from a Number of Circumſtances relating to the Manner of executing it. Poiſon in particular, is in its Nature ſo ſecret, and withal ſo deliberate, that where-ever that is knowingly given, and Death enſues, the ſo putting to Death muſt be wilful and malicious. In the Caſe before you, you have two Sorts of Proof to go by, that of Circumſtances, and that of Confeſſion; now though a Perſon may deny on his Trial what he has before confeſs'd, and put the Proſecutor upon the Proof, yet when Circumſtances and Confeſſion unite to prove the Party guilty, the Jury may and ought to have Regard to what the Priſoner had confeſs'd.

Wherefore, if on conſidering the ſeveral Circumſtances of this Affair, you ſhould be of Opinion, that

William Smith, the Priſoner at the Bar was guilty of the Murder of the three Perſons as laid in the Indictment you will then bring in your Verdict accordingly; but if you neither credit the Witneſſes, Circumſtances, nor his own Confeſſion, then you will acquit him.

Clerk. Gentlemen of the Jury, anſwer to your Names. Are you agreed in your Verdict? Who ſhall ſay for you?

Foreman. Guilty Death.

Clerk. And ſo you all ſay.

Officer. Put *William Smith* to the Bar.

Clerk. Priſoner, Have you any Thing to ſay, why Sentence of Death ſhould not be paſſed on you.

[*Here the Priſoner perſiſted in his Innocency.*]

JUDGE.

The Crime you have been guilty of, is one of the moſt deſtructive to Society; the Species of Murder you now ſtand convicted of is the moſt diabolical and inhuman the Machinations of Devils or Men could invent. To poiſon People, to procure the Death of your Father-in-law and Kinsfolks by putting into their Food Poiſon is ſlaying Perſons in the Dark where they have no Opportunity of ſeeing their Enemy, or of warding off the fatal Blow; the Highwayman who robs a Perſon on the Road puts the Party on his Defence; but the wicked Method you took to compaſs the Lives of the Deceaſed was clandeſtine and daſtardly. May you be ſenſible of your Crime, and if it be poſſible repent therefore, before you go hence, and be no more ſeen. And may your Fall deter others for the future from the like wicked and helliſh Attempts. In the mean while, it falls to my Lot to pronounce on you *William Smith* that Sentence which the Law of the Land hath appointed as due to your Offence; wherefore, you *William Smith*, Farmer, convicted and found guilty by *God* and

and your Country of poiſoning your Father-in-law *Thomas Harper*, and *William* and *Anne Harper* two Children of the ſaid *Thomas* are to go back to the Priſon from whence you came, there to remain till *Wedneſday* next the fifteenth Day of this Month, *Auguſt*; and from thence you are to be carried to the Place of Execution between the Hours of Eight and Twelve, where you are to be hanged by the Neck till you are dead, dead, dead; and the Lord have Mercy on your Soul. After which your Body is to be delivered to the Surgeons to be diſſected and Anatomized.

The Rev. Mr. CAPOON'S *Account of the Behavihaviour of the Priſoner under Sentence of Death, and at the Place of Execution.*

ABOUT an Hour after the Priſoner was carried to the Dungeon, I waited on him, at the Deſire of his own Father, and others of his Friends; he ſeemed to be very thoughtful and penſive, and that Aſſurance which he ſeemed to have on his Trial had quite left him. I aſked him ſeveral Queſtions, but he remained for ſome Time ſullen and moroſe, till at length, I obſerved to him, that as he muſt and would ſurely die on *Wedneſday*, if he perſiſted, to deny what was ſo plain and evident, that he was guilty, he would add greatly to his Crime by leaving Room to judge, that *Elizabeth Wall*, or *John Trotman*, who was *Harper*'s Man, or ſome other Perſon had done it, and ſuch Suſpicions might create great Confuſion. I preſſed this Argument home to him, that it was a Thing which he ought to do in Juſtice to ſurviving Parties, and that it was beneath the Dignity of Humanity to die with a Lie in his Mouth; and that tho' he had been guilty of ſo vile an Act, yet I told him, that the Character I had received

received of him from his Neighbours at *Great Broughton* led me to think that he deteſted a Lie. On which he burſt out into a Flood of Tears, and ſaid, Every body, they are innocent, and that he had poiſoned the Flour as ſet forth in his Examination. I then aſked *Smith* what induced him to commit this horrid Act; he ſaid, He could not well tell;—only, —he thought he was poſſeſſed with an evil Spirit that agitated him to the Commiſſion; and that Spirit ſeized him about two Months before the Time he did the Fact; that during that Time he could not go near a Church, nor did he ſleep on Nights; that he could give no Reaſon for what he had done; and that he was very ſorry for what he had done; but he only found now that his Repentance was too late; and mentioning the five Perſons who were invited, and did not come; he bleſſed *God*, he ſaid, they eſcaped. I mentioned to him, the Nature of his Crime, as that it was like the blowing up of a Mine, he knew not how many might have been killed by it; and then he again thanked *God* that *Trueman*, and *Elizabeth Wall* eſcaped. And then he mentioned with ſome Concern, *Shock* and *Fly* the two Dogs that were poiſoned, ſaying, *Shock* had often guarded him from *Ingleby* to *Broughton*, and *Fly* and he had very often purſued a Hare. As for himſelf, he often ſaid, he was glad he was to die, for he found when he went for *Ireland*, that he could not reſt till he returned, and he added, that he juſtly deſerved the Puniſhment he was about to undergo. He did not deſire Abſolution, nor to receive the Holy Sacrament, imagining, as he ſaid, that he could never be fit to be a Partaker of that ſacred Inſtitution. He grew very humble, and as the Time drew on, he cried and wept very much; but he could never be perſuaded that he deſerved Forgiveneſs, or that *God* would ever forgive him, in, through or by the Blood or Merits of *Jeſus Chriſt*, tho' I muſt ſay, as far I could judge, he ſeemed truly penitent. The

next Day I diſcourſed to him, at his Requeſt, from theſe Words: *The Wicked fleeth when no Man purſueth.* Wherein I endeavoured to ſhew, How that the Conſcience of a Sinner when awakened by a Sight of his Guilt would not ſuffer him to fly into a diſtant Land; that his Crime was the more wicked as he by intending to poiſon and take away the Life of one or three, might have cauſed the Death of ten; *Harper*, and his two Children, *Trueman*, *Elizabeth Wall*, and of the five invited, who did not come to eat of this Cake. He ſeemed to relent, and was obſerved to weep ſeveral Times during the Service, and Sermon. He told me, his Mind was much eaſier, ſince he had confeſſed, for he repeated often theſe Words. "What a Devil was I for poiſoning the "Flour; to take away the Lives of my Friends, and "of poor *Shock*, who had ſaved my Life twice, when "the Country was overrun by *Scotch* Thieves and "Rebels." The Morning he was to be Executed, I attended him, when he ſeemed to be truly ſenſible of his Fault; when he aſked me, what he could do to atone for his Sin; This a little ſurprized me, and I began to think he had been touched with *Roman* Catholic Principles; but upon my Enquiry, I found, it was only his Deſire of making ſome Amends for his Crime. I told him, it was out of his Power to make Reſtitution; Life once taken away, could not be reſtored. He then complained, that the Time allowed by the Law was very ſhort, after Condemnation, and that there was not ſufficient Time to ſettle his Affairs, and to prepare for Eternity.

I then took Occaſion to obſerve to him, that he deprived his Father-in-law of Life in leſs than ſix Hours; his Siſter-in-law in leſs than Nine; and his Brother-in-law in leſs than eighteen, whereas from the Time of his Sentence, to the Time of his Execution there would be an Interval of almoſt two Days, which was forty-eight Hours: But ſays I, you have not reckoned right, for you have had from *Good-Fri-*

day to this Time, a Space of about four Months. Suppoſe, ſaid I, you had lived before the Conqueſt, when it was common, for a Murderer, (though at that Time ſuch Offenders were very rare) to be taken at Nine of the Clock in the Morning, brought before the Hundred-Court, where the Biſhop of the Dioceſe, and the Lord of the Diviſion ſate to adminiſter Juſtice, and the Offender executed before One, and this was done without the leaſt Parade and Oſtentation. So that the Murderer ſometimes ſcarce ſurvived his Offence, ſix Hours. About Half-an Hour after Ten the proper Officers came to lead him to Execution; he went quietly though reluctantly; the Tears ran from his Eyes; and being upon the Ladder, he ſaid, he had prepared a Speech, which he intended to read to the Publick, but that as he had not Spirits ſufficient to go through ſuch a Fatigue, he ſaid, he hoped it would be the ſame Thing, if he left the Paper with me, to be publiſhed after his Death.

A Copy of WILLIAM SMITH'S *Speech.*

GOOD People, I am brought here to ſuffer for murdering three Perſons, and many more that might have been murdered by my Means, I acknowledge my Fault, and the Juſtice of my Sentence; I hope, all People, will take Warning by my unhappy Fate; and take Care to be contented with their preſent State and Condition in Life; if I had been contented with the Way I was in, I ſhould never have come to this ſcandalous End; and I have Reaſon now to blame my Father-in-law, for making an Agreement with me, that on his Deceaſe, and the Deceaſe of his Son *William*, I ſhould have the Farm of *Ingleby Manor*; this I long'd for, and this I endeavoured to effect by poiſoning the Flour of which the *Good-Friday* Cake was made. I aſk Pardon of GOD, and of my *King*, and of my Country, and ſo the Lord have Mercy on my Soul!

After his Execution, the following Letter was found in his Pocket directed to his Wife.

My Dear Betty.

I am an undone Man; I have brought Shame on myſelf and on You, and my dear Infant; but do not think any more of ſuch an unworthy Perſon as I am; it is well I am dead, for who knows I might have poiſoned you and my Child; think no more of me; look on me as quite loſt, and as though there never had been ſuch a Perſon; but let me recommend to you, Farmer *Alcock*'s Son, who courted you before I did; marry him; and carry on the Farm, and as my Son grows up, pray do not let him know, there ever was ſuch an unhappy Perſon as I am. Farewell! Walk in the Paths of Virtue and Sobriety; go to Church, and mind what is good; you know, I did not love to go to Church, and you ſee now what is come of it.

Aug. 14. 1753. *William Smith.*

P. S. Pray breed up my Son in the Paths of Virtue, and teach him his Lord's-Prayer, Ten Commandments, to read in the Teſtament, and to go to Church.

AN

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

MURDER

OF

Farmer *Harvey*, his Wife, Son and Daughter,

IN THE

Pariſh of *Brent*, near *Plymouth*.

MR. *Joſeph Harvey*, came into the Pariſh of *Brent* about the Year 1715, in the firſt Year of His late Majeſty King *George* the Firſt; when he had been ſettled about three Years in his Farm, he caſt his Eye on a neighbouring Farmer's Daughter, whoſe Name was *Mary*; they were married juſt before the *South-Sea* Year, which is now about three and thirty Years ago. They had ſeveral Children, but only two ſurvived ten Years of Age, whoſe Names were *Joſeph* and *Mary*; old *Harvey* was

was a Man of Reputation, had ſerved all his Offices, both Parochial and all thoſe which belong to the Hundred, which we in *London*, call Ward-Offices, as Conſtable, Surveyor of the Highways, Juryman, *&c.* He was looked on by all his Neighbours and Acquaintance, to be a Man well to paſs in Life, and his Word or Bond would go for Hundreds. He farmed pretty largely, and kept ſeveral Cows. And my Author ſays, that he and his Family lived lovingly together, free from Feuds and Animoſities, and that he went regularly to Church, and behaved as decently and well as any Perſons in the Pariſh of *Brent*.

All which being conſidered makes the following tragical Story appear monſtrous abſurd. It ſeems, it was cuſtomary for old *Harvey* to get up as ſoon as Peep of Day, and go out into his Fields and Grounds, to ſee his Cattle, and view how his Lands lay; to ſee the Mowers and Reapers at Work; but one Morning coming down in a cruſty Mood, he went into the Fields, he returned in leſs than an Hour quite out of Humour, diſappointed as is ſuppoſed of his Expectation in ſeeing his Men at Work, who had the Day before been at a neighbouring Wake, where they ſat up late, got drunk, and ſo neglected his Work. The old Man returned home quite full of Anger, Malice, Revenge, *&c.* and going into the Yard found a Hatchet, which his Son had ſharpened the Day before, takes that, and as his Son was then in Bed, and had been at the Wake the Night before, and was not up at his Return, in great Haſte, he pulls out the Key of the Street-Door, and ſhuts to the Door without taking the Key out of it, not willing to be diſturbed he bolts the Door within, and then goes up with the Hatchet, and finds his Son aſleep, who not readily anſwering, he gave him a Blow with the Hatchet, that quite killed him, by daſhing out his Brains, but leaſt this

this was not ſufficient, old *Harvey* with a Razor cut his Throat from Ear to Ear. Having thus far proceeded in his barbarous Work, he next went into his own Room, where he found his Wife and Daughter in Bed together; this cruel Aſſaſſin cut his own Wife's Throat from Ear to Ear; after which he bruiſed with a Hatchet the Head and Skull of his Daughter in ſo terrible a Manner that her Brains worked or purged out of her Skull.

Now when he had done all this, he began to relent, and to think what he had done: Upon which, to cloſe the Scene, he thought it adviſeable to kill himſelf; by which Means he imagined that People would conclude, that this horrid and unparrallelled Murder, was committed by Thieves, Murderers, and Perſons unknown. In the firſt Room of the Houſe Farmer *Harvey* cut his own Throat, where his Neighbours found him.

I ſhall conclude this Narrative with an Account of what paſſed at the Time the Coroner and his Jury ſat on the Body, as I have received it in a Letter ſent me by the Foreman of the Inqueſt.

On the thirteenth of *Auguſt*, the Coroner ſat on the Bodies of *Joſeph Harvey*, the Father, *Mary* the Mother, the Wife of *Joſeph*, and *Joſeph* and *Mary*, the Son and Daughter of the ſaid *Joſeph* and *Mary* the Elder, at the *George* in *Brent*. On this Occaſion, ſad and melancholy indeed, all Perſons ſeemed greatly concerned, and every Eye ſhed a Tear. Upon the Examination, it did appear, that this Scene of Barbarity was not committed by Thieves, becauſe they had not taken away any Valuables, nor had they broke open Boxes or Trunks, &c. The Jury next enquired, by whom this Murder was committed, according to probable Circumſtances; and here

it

it ſoon appeared, that old *Harvey* muſt be the Perpetrator, and that after he had killed his Son, his Wife and Daughter, he revenged the Crime on himſelf, by cutting of his own Throat and leaving the World to make what Judgment they pleaſed on this horrid Act. Upon the whole, the Jury found, that *Mary Harvey*, the Elder, and *Mary Harvey* the Younger, and Mr. *Joſeph Harvey*, the younger, were killed by Mr. *Joſeph Harvey* the Elder, and that afterwards Mr. *Joſeph Harvey* had killed himſelf by cutting of his own Throat.

FINIS.